

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-19 were pending in the present application. Claims 1-5, 7-12, and 17-19 have been amended. The amendment to the claims is fully supported by the specification, as filed. No new subject matter has been introduced. After entry of the amendment, claims 1-19 remain pending in this application.

**Objections to the Claims**

The Examiner indicated that the numbering of the claims in the previously presented claim set was non-consecutive. The listing of claims presented herewith is numbered consecutively. Claims 4 and 5 were objected to for lack of clarity as to their dependencies. Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to depend from claims 2 and 3, respectively. Applicants respectfully request that these objections to the claims be withdrawn.

**Elections/Restrictions**

The Examiner has required restriction between the following groups:

Group I: claims 1-14, 17 and 19, drawn to a device for handling liquid sample, and a method of using the same.

Group II: claims 15 and 16, drawn to a method of performing a chemical or biochemical assay involving a reaction between an analyte in a sample and one more reagents.

Group III: claim 18, drawn to a method of pre-treating a liquid sample, prior to performing a chemical or biochemical assay.

Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-14, 17, and 19 for continued examination, with traverse. Applicants respectfully assert that a search of all the groups would not present an undue burden on the Office. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

In the unlikely event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No.: 03-1952 referencing 514862002600. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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